GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:539
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2005
INDO-BANGLADESH TRADE
Harsha Kumar Shri G.V.;Subba Shri Moni Kumar

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of trade between India and Bangladesh during last three years;

(b) whether the trade between the two countries has declined;

(c) if so, reasons thereof and measures taken to increase exports to Bangladesh;

(d) whether India and Bangladesh had recently talks on trade and investment;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether Government of Bangladesh has requested for settng up a Bangladesh Mission in North Eastern Region for promotion of trade and commerce between Bangladesh and North Eastern Region; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH)

(a) to (g): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 539 TO BE ANSWERED ON 3.5.2005 REGARDING INDO-BANGLADESH TRADE.

(a): The trade between India and Bangladesh for the year 2001-2002, 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 were US$ 1061.30, US$ 1238.24, US $ 1708.32 million respectively. The trade for the year 2004-2005 (April-Jan.) was US$ 1271.55 million. The breakup of India`s exports to Bangladesh, imports from Bangladesh and total trade are given below in the tabular form :

(Value In US $ Million)

YEAR	INDIA`S EXPORTS TO BANGLADESH	INDIA`S IMPORTS FROM BANGLADESH	TOTAL TRADE
2001-2002	1002.18	59.12	1061.30
2002-2003	1176.00	62.05	1238.24
2003-2004	1646.08	62.24	1708.32
2004-2005(April-Jan.)	1226.67	44.88	1271.55
2003-2004(April-Jan.)	1389.17	61.04	1450.21

(Source : DGCI&S, Kolkata)

(b): There is a slight decline in the bilateral trade between both countries in April-January 2004-2005. The trade data for the year 2004-2005 is awaited.

(c) to (e): The volume of trade is primarily determined by various economic factors including demand and supply of commodities, price competitiveness and alternative sources of supply available to the importers. It has been the policy of the Government to develop trade and commerce with all countries including Bangladesh through various bilateral trade consultations.

(f) & (g): Government of Bangladesh has requested for setting up of a Bangladesh Mission in Guwahati in North Eastern Region for promotion of trade and commerce between Bangladesh and North Eastern Region. The request of the Government of Bangladesh was noted.